

S T O W M A R K E T
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L .
ANNUAL REPORTS
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
KATHLEEN M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.
L.W. BROWN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
for the year
1962.



STONMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman : H. Ager, J.P.
Vice-Chairman: Dr. R.U.F. Kynaston.

L.F. Abery	G.L. Ince
A.A. Ashton	J.O. Milner
E. Fulcher	W.H. Naylor
R.W. Hiron	B.G. Quinton
W.A. Howard	G.S. Scotland
A.W. Iliffe	F.W. Serjeant
H.G.J. Stammers	

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: G.L. Ince.

L.F. Abery	^{F.W. Serjeant} J.O. Milner
R.W. Hiron	G.S. Scotland
W.A. Howard	H.G.J. Stammers

Ex Officio: Chairman & Vice-Chairman of Council.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health - Doctor Kathleen M. Harding,
M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

Chief Public Health Inspector -- Jack S. Fisher,
C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
.....to December, 1962.

Additional Public Health
Inspector. - John P.E. Rudd,
A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
.....to April, 1962.

Public Health Inspector - L.W. Brown,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
.....from October, 1962.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

June, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1962.

The state of health of the people of Stowmarket has been satisfactory during the year under consideration.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,696 acres.
Population (estimated mid-year						
Home Population, Registrar						
General's Figures)	...	...	...	...	7,870	
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,570	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£371,012 £133,841	
Estimated Sum represented by						
a penny rate	...	...	...	...	£1,500	£538

VITAL STATISTICS.

The local standardised Birth Rate has again increased from 14.55 to 15.01.

The Infant Mortality Rate and the Stillbirth Rate are both considerably lower than the national figures.

(i) BIRTHS. (Registrar General's Figures).

LIVE BIRTHS.

						<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	64	53	117
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	62	50	112
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	5

BIRTH RATE:-

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	14.86
Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales	=	18.0
Comparability Factor	=	1.01
Standardised Birth Rate	=	15.01

STILL BIRTHS.

						<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	1	-	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	-	-	-

STILL BIRTH-RATE:-

Per 1,000 total live and still births	=	8.45
- do - England and Wales	=	18.1

INFANT MORTALITY (Under One Year)

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total ...	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER FOUR WEEKS OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total ...	2	-	2
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE WEEK OF AGE.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Total ...	1	-	1
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE:-

Per 1,000 live births	=	17.1
- do - England and Wales	=	21.4

(ii) DEATHS (Registrar General's Figures).


	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
ALL CAUSES	39	42	81

DEATH RATE:-

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population	=	10.3
Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales	=	11.9
Comparability Factor	=	1.01
Standardised Death Rate	=	10.4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1962.</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>1961.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	2	2	4	2
" " lung, bronchus	2	-	2	5
" " breast	-	2	2	1
" " uterus	-	1	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	3	5	7
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	4	10	11
Coronary disease, angina	10	8	18	16
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1	2
Other heart disease	5	6	11	9
Other circulatory disease	-	4	4	4
Pneumonia	7	4	11	4
Bronchitis	-	2	2	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system	-	-	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4	5	10
All other accidents	2	1	3	1
Homicide and operations of war	1	-	1	-
	<hr/>			
TOTALS:	39	42	81	78
	<hr/>			



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COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

	1960	1961	1962	England and Wales 1962.
Inhabited houses	2517	2538	2570	-
Population (Registrar General's figures).	7640	7770	7870	-
Live Births	108	112	117	-
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population.	14.28	14.55	15.01	18.0
Deaths of Infants under One Year.	2	2	2	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	18.51	17.86	17.1	21.4
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population.	12.28	10.24	10.4	11.9

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled
from Notifications received.

Diseases	AGES.							Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	1	1/2	3/4	5/9	10/14	15/24	25+			
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Measles	-	11	10	22	-	-	-	43	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	4	-
TOTALS:-								50	4	-

TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
(i) New Cases notified	1	..	2	1
(ii) Ages of New Cases:-	55, 16, 42, 84 years.			
(iii) Cases crossed off the Register as recovered during the year:-				

Pulmonary.

Male .. 1
Female - 3

Non-Pulmonary.

Male - 1
Female - 1

- (iv) Cases crossed off the Register by removal to other Districts or by death during the year:-

NIL

- (v) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>		
<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
15	4	19	5	8	13

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. (Figures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.)

	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>
(i) <u>SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.</u>		
Primary vaccinations	185	72
Re-vaccinations	150	4
(ii) <u>IMMUNISATIONS.</u>		
(a) <u>PRIMARY.</u>		
Diphtheria	1	
Whooping Cough	-	
Tetanus	46	
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough ...	-	
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus	115	
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	
	<u>162</u>	
	=====	
(b) <u>BOOSTERS.</u>		
Diphtheria and Diphtheria/ Whooping Cough/Tetanus ...	166	

(iii) POLIOMYELITIS.

No separate figures for this District are available for Poliomyelitis vaccinations.

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was necessary during the year.

FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath which is owned and maintained by the Council. It is supplied with mains water.

The water is treated with break point chlorination and is filtered. It is changed at the rate of 20,000 gallons per hour. The pool is emptied completely and cleaned out once a year.

Analyses of the water during the year have been most satisfactory.

SEWAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage works operated satisfactorily, but considerable difficulty continued to be experienced, particularly during the Winter months, in the drying and disposal of sludge. The Council's Consultants are preparing a scheme to provide additional facilities for sludge disposal.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Action taken under the Factories Act, 1961, is detailed in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

December 1962 marked the retirement of Mr. J.S. Fisher, the Council's Public Health Inspector. During his 16 years with this Authority, Mr. Fisher carried out his duties in an outstanding manner. He was always most conscientious and the various facets of public health were, one always felt, in very safe and competent hands. He rendered most valuable service throughout his time at Stomarket, particularly during the Paratyphoid outbreaks of 1953 & 1955.

He was always most courteous in his relations with the general public, and carried out his work with great tact.

He was very co-operative with his colleagues on the staff and on his retirement the Council has lost a most loyal and valued officer.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
Ipswich Road,
STOWMARKET.

June, 1963.

To The Chairman and Members of the
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector.

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report on the environmental health work undertaken by your Inspectorate during the year 1962. The Council needs no reminder but I need to record that, whilst including observations of my own, the following account, so far as it relates to work of the Public Health Department, is attributable to my predecessors, Mr. J.S. Fisher, and his Assistant, Mr. J. Rudd, and to them must go the credit for their contribution to the progress made during the period.

Housing

Since the inception of sanitary authorities, housing has been their greatest problem, and it is now no less so. This Council, in common with most in the Country, has the four-fold task of (a) clearing slums and providing alternative accommodation, (b) relieving the general housing shortage, (c) encouraging the improvement of worthwhile dwellings and (d) ensuring the maintenance in reasonable order of the residue.

- (a) In the absence of Council house building since 1958, no slum clearance action was taken during the year, although Nos. 15 and 17, Neecham Road, which had been the subject of Demolition Orders for some time, were demolished.

The occupants of No. 17, Spring Row were rehoused to a vacated Council house and yet another Spring Row house became voluntarily closed. At the year's end 65 occupied houses remained in the first five-year stage of the slum clearance schedule prepared in 1955.

- (b) At 31st December, 1962, the Council's general housing waiting lists stood at 336 applicants. Of these, 127 resided outside the District and 50 of these already live in other Council's houses. The applicants on the lists comprise 203 families, 73 single persons or childless couples and 60 old people or couples.

A welcome resumption of house building by the Council was seen in 1962 and the people in unfit houses or on the general waiting lists have a very much brighter prospect of seeing their housing needs met.

With the completion of the first units in the resumed house-building programme just before Christmas, the Council and its Surveyor scored a notable success in the original design of the four one-bedroom bungalows in Webb Road which incorporate many features tailored to the convenience and comfort of their elderly tenants. One poor feature of rehousing people from old defective houses is the relative coldness of the new dwellings; the old ones are invariably dark, damp and lacking amenities, but are often snug (usually from cramped space and inadequate ventilation) and the transition to lighter and larger, better-ventilated units often proves distressing. In the design of the Webb Road bungalows however, thermal insulation and easy well-distributed heating have been used to the best advantage and even in the exceptionally cold weather experienced shortly after their occupation they were found to be comfortably warm throughout. Similar units are under construction in Recreation Road which should provide another pleasing environment for the elderly.

Some contribution to old people's welfare and housing accommodation was provided by the East Suffolk County Council's newly completed Wade House in Violet Hill Road. This bright and cheerful home offers comfortable accommodation, companionship and skilled attention to 48 old people unable to fend for themselves in homes of their own, in an establishment with tailored invalid amenities. Reference to the Council's efforts in connection with the provision of housing for the needy in the District would be incomplete without reference to the Chairman of the Housing (Tenants and Welfare) Committee, Councillor Iliffe who attends the Council Offices every Friday afternoon, week-in week-out to hear applicants state their cases and discuss their problems with him, the better to maintain a fair appraisal of the housing needs situation. 15 vacated Council houses and flats were re-let during the year.

- (c) Hand-in-hand with the provision of new dwellings must go the maintenance and modernisation to a reasonable standard of the bulk of the fit dwellings and the Council encourages this with the aid of statutory grants. The Government bears 75% of the cost of grant aid and the Council bears 25%. So far, the Council has issued over £20,000 for this purpose of which £5,017 is being borne by the local rates. Nationally and locally, the accent as regards house improvement has been on owner-occupied dwellings rather than tenanted ones and, in efforts to avoid the introduction of statutory compulsion of house improvement, the Government invited local authorities to secure more active encouragement of tenanted-house improvement. In this connection the Council is likely to utilise an offer enabling them to use two terrace houses for modernisation and show purposes. With adequate publicity such a "before and after" unit should prove an effective means of bringing home to the community the advantages of grant-aided improvement. In the meantime, the traditional methods of poster and leaflet publicity and personal contacts with the community continue to persuade a steady trickle of applications.

In 1962

Discretionary grant schemes approved	14
Amount of grant-aid involved	£2,892. 10s. Od.
Discretionary grant schemes completed	13
Amount of grant involved	£2,357. 0s. Od.
Standard grant schemes approved	27
Maximum amount of grant involved	£3,700. 0s. Od.
Standard grant schemes completed	18
Amount of grant involved	£2,241. 0s. Od.

- (d) Dwellings generally in the District are in reasonable repair and during the year the Council received only 15 complaints with request for official intervention to effect repair of house defects. No formal notices were issued but the Council was involved in negotiating a formal undertaking restricting the flat at No. 35, Ipswich Street to non-family tenants in future. One application for a certificate of disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 resulted in the owner carrying-out the works in dispute before the issue of a certificate. Tenants and landlords generally continue the delicate game of compromise in the matter of house maintenance without resort to this complex statute.

On the matter of temporary housing afforded by caravans, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, appears to have enjoyed a chequered career in the District so far. At some time in the year caravans were stationed and in use on the following unlicensed sites:-

The Cedars GuestHouse, Needham Road	(2)
The Old Piggeries, Bridge Street	(3)
Edgars Farm, Combs Lane	(4)
Combs Ford Square	(2)
The Duke's Head Inn, Ipswich Street	(1)
"Ambleside", Finborough Road	(2)

The Council were dissatisfied that the East Suffolk County Council as Planning Authority had refused planning consent for these sites yet had undertaken no positive enforcement action and negotiations between the two Authorities failed

to produce any. During the year the Old Piggeries Site became disused for only a brief period. . A further site occupied by one caravan at the rear of The Pickerel's Inn, Stowupland Street enjoys exemption from control as showmen's winter quarters.

The licensed sites with planning consent consisted of:-

Prestons Hill, Stowupland Road.	(1)
Caravan Sales Site, Bury Road.	(1)
The Sandpits, Victoria Road.	(6)

During the year the site at Prestons Hill became disused and the licence allowed to lapse. The Bury Road site is a 'caretaker' one, and the only licensed tenanted residential site is that at the Sandpits which has a five-year licence and consent due to expire 28th February, 1966. Here, for plot rents varying from 15/-d. to £1., according to the distance from the lone standpipe (between 50' and 180'), the caravanners get a plot for their caravan, water at the farmyard, privacy, a pleasant aspect but no other material amenities.

Atmosphere.

Generally speaking, industrial processes in the town are well-separated from the shopping and residential area, the majority of the factories being sited on the eastern side of the River Gipping. Nevertheless, industry is still in somewhat close proximity to some of the community's living quarters, and it is inevitable that harmony is not always achieved.

Stramit Boards Ltd. find a considerable quantity of straw waste has to be disposed of each day and the only method adopted by the firm consists of open burning on the exposed hillside adjacent to the factory. The charred straw particles which litter the area are at the mercy of the elements and some of the residents of the Lime Tree Place neighbourhood are utterly tired of sweeping this material out of their homes. Representations made to the firm proved fruitful and extractor plant is being installed to considerably reduce the amount of straw required to be disposed of. The Council anticipate that this nuisance will be largely eliminated by the summer of 1963.

The Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., Paints Division, which occupies a large clean modern factory in Needham Road has a wet waste paint problem which caused some difficulty during the year. Complaint was received concerning the emmissions of black smoke from the waste incineration plant. Some improvements were effected and, whilst the community would no longer appear to be suffering any nuisance from the plant, the firm was still endeavouring to wholly solve its problem at the end of the year.

For many years a strong yeast smell has pervaded the atmosphere for a day or two each week in the vicinity of Stowupland Road. It has been attributed to certain processes carried on at the factory of the Manufacturing Chemists, Sutton and Phillips Ltd. For years, apparently, the odours were accepted by the residents of the area as an unpleasant but necessary evil by-product of this local industry. However, a newly-arrived resident wondered why he should not live where he had choosen (albeit in proximity to industry) and breathe wholesome fresh air. The result was a petition by some 70 local residents which caused representations to the firm by the Council. The firm, also aware of the effluvia had already embarked on investigations into the matter and had hopes of achieving some success in the ensuing year. The matter is due for further review by the Council in August 1963.

The most appalling stench pervaded the whole town for a few days in October. The Council was inundated with complaints blaming everything from neighbours' chickens to Council sewers, but the smell arose from the removal of slaughter-house waste at premises outside the District and it is to be hoped that this does not recur.

Yet another of the local fish-friers changed from coal to gas-fired. ranges to overcome smoke emissions.

These cases were the principal examples of atmospheric pollution arising from industry during the year.

Private householders of course continued to pour copious quantities of coal smoke into the atmosphere during the winter months.

Water Supplies.

With few exceptions the population receives water from the Council's mains. Supplies are derived from bores situated at Poplar Hill and Station Road and, in parts of the Combs area, from Gipping Rural District Council mains. The undertaking is operated for the Council by its Engineer and Surveyor who reports that the average daily consumption during the year was 276,000 gallon. The bacteriological quality is maintained at nothing short of excellent; 225 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and all proved highly satisfactory.

The Council expressed its wish to the Minister of Housing and Local Government to be included in the proposed expanded Ipswich Borough water undertaking on the re-grouping of local water resources.

Swimming Pools.

There are four swimming pools in the District. Two County Schools units are installed, one at the Grammar and the other at the County Primary. A small pool is also installed at the Hillcroft Preparatory Private School and was periodically supervised by the County Health Inspector. The principal pool which is open to the public from May to September, is the Council-owned one in Ipswich Road. This open-air pool measures 100 feet x 33 feet with a depth varying from 3 feet to 6 feet. Its concrete interior is attractively decorated with chlorinated rubber paint and the surrounds and associated amenities which include a toddlers paddling pool, tiered spectators seating and a grassed play-area provide a first class service to the public which unfortunately it is only induced to use in warm weather. The treatment plant provides a physically attractive and bacteriologically safe water supply and the five samples submitted to the Laboratory during the 1962 season all proved satisfactory.

Food.

No new legislative changes affecting the Council's responsibilities were introduced during the year. 96 visits were paid to food premises and, apparently no glaring deficiencies were discovered and in the eight instances of minor contravention of the food hygiene law which came to light, the matters were rectified without resort to formal action. Two complaints were received concerning foreign bodies in food purchased locally. One arose from some charred fat found in a cake and the other concerned a small insect carcass in a loaf of bread. Neither case was considered justification for punitive action by the Council.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 provide the instrument for controlling to a reasonable minimum the structure and facilities of food premises and the conduct of employed staff - all conducive to the hygienic handling of food within these businesses. Staff however continue to be free from any pre-employment check and one would think that, in this day and age, it is not too much to expect legislation to require a chest-x-ray and clear nasal and rectal swabs as a pre-requisite of employment in the food industry.

Milk. In addition to the C.W.S. Creamery which collects and distributes milk over a considerable area outside the District, pasteurising some of it in the process, there were two local distributors licensed for the sale of milk - Mr. Gough of Combs Lane and the Stowmarket Co-Operative Society Ltd of Bury Street.

During the year two more distributors were registered by this Council for the sale of milk - Melias Ltd trading as G. F. Ray and Son of Bury Street, and D.E. Riley of 2, Creeting Road. All supplies in the District are designated either pasteurised or tuberculin tested.

The County Health Inspector took 61 samples of raw milk delivered to the local Creamery and on biological examination none was found to contain tubercle but 16 were found to harbour brucella abortus infection. These infected milk sources were attributed to herds outside this District, and arrangements made

for exclusion from raw milk distribution and subsequent pasteurisation before sale. 52 samples were submitted for statutory test for efficiency of pasteurisation and general cleanliness and six samples for chemical analysis (fat and solids quality) were found also satisfactory.

Ice Cream. Three retail premises were registered in accordance with the Act for the sale of ice cream. This brought the total to 35. In addition, the local Cinema and most of the catering establishments also sell ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the District and supplies are obtained from Messrs. Lyons, Walls, Glacier Foods Ltd., and Tonibell Ltd. A number of mobile vendors selling these firms' products and also the vehicles of Messrs. Zagni, trading as Peters of Ipswich, tour at frequent intervals throughout the District. No samples were taken for examination at the Laboratory during the year.

The introduction of compact soft-ice cream units for mobile vendors and shopkeepers generally will shift the responsibility for safe and wholesome ice cream back from the manufacturers to the vendors, and will inevitably demand the closer attention of local authorities.

Meat. In addition to the large meat products factory of W.A. Turner Ltd., Bond Street, there are 8 premises registered in accordance with the Act for the manufacture of meat products. These are all retail butchers who are registered for the manufacture of sausages and brawn etc. There are two slaughterhouses in the District - a small one at 47, Bury Street serving the family butchery of W.H. Aldis and Son Stowmarket, and the needs of a few butchers outside the District. The other slaughterhouse is that of W.A. Turner Ltd. which serves to provide some of the pork requirements of that firm's main business. The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations 1958, are in full effect since the "appointed day" for the District was fixed 1st October, 1961. The Minister's Veterinary Division upon which must rest the responsibility for the standard of construction and equipping required of the local slaughterhouses did not leave a legacy that cannot stand improvement in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Post-mortem examination of the animals slaughtered at the two slaughterhouses is undertaken as a routine measure. 100% coverage is not possible since the routine has to be interrupted for other matters which arise from time to time to demand the sole Inspector's attention. The health of the animals brought for local slaughter is very good and the omission of meat examination for brief and infrequent periods does not present the hazardous situation it would have occasioned only a few years ago. During the year, 5351 animals were slaughtered and of these 5020 were examined by the Council's staff.

An analysis of the findings on post-mortem examination is set out as follows:-

	<u>Bullocks</u>	<u>Heifers</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Animals slaughtered	353	106	2	625	4265
Carcases examined	328	100	2	575	4105
Other than tuberculosis:-					
(a) whole animal unfit	-	-	-	-	8
(b) Parts or organs unfit	14	4	-	8	409
% of animals examined	4.29	4.00	-	1.40	10.36
Tuberculosis only:					
(a) whole animal unfit	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Parts or organs unfit	-	-	-	-	265
% of animals examined	-	-	-	-	6.6
Cysticercus boris :-					
(a) Generalised	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Localised and subjected to approved refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
% of animals examined	.31	-	-	-	-

No significance need be attached to the high incidence recorded of tuberculosis infection of pigs. The low incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* infestation, which is well below the national average, may be attributed to the fact that the only slaughterer of beef obtains most of his animals direct from the farm and these animals are usually unpastured young stock which have had no opportunity for collecting cysts. The principal causes of condemnation of pig organs were pigs suffering from inflammatory conditions such as pleurisy, pneumonia and pericarditis where the organ itself was rejected and the remainder of the animal was otherwise satisfactory.

1 ton 15 cwts 9½lbs of meat and 10 cwts 30 lbs of offal were found to be unfit for human consumption on post-mortem examination. This material was stained with an acid green dye before collection for disposal.

Conditions found on post-mortem examination are analysed as follows:-

Local abcess formation	21
Pleurisy	67
Pneumonia	171
Pericarditis	11
Parasitic infestation	15
Arthritis	1
Urticaria	2
Tuberculosis	265
Cirrhosis, necrosis (liver) (mainly parasitic origin)	105
Pyæmia	5
Suppurative osteomyelitis	1
Immaturity	4
Mastitis	3
Acute septic metritis	1
Nephritis	27
Acute septic peritonitis	1

The Council continued to examine meat destined for a population outside the district, and, in the twelve months ended 31st March, 1962, the sum of £23. 18s. 8d. was received from the Government as an Exchequer contribution to the cost of examining this export meat. This grant will be payable for the current year under review also but the grant will be replaced by the new Meat Regulations which will introduce the compulsory examination of meat by the Local Authority subject to standard charges which will be levied against the owner of the meat. This is likely to be law by the winter of 1963/64, and will increase the amount of time spent by the Inspectorate in meat inspection. Six slaughtermen were licensed by the Council during the year.

General foodstuffs Retailers generally and the local wholesale warehouses of the Stowmarket Co-operative Society Ltd. and J. Copeman and Sons utilise the Councils' services for the examination and disposal of unfit foods. During the year 910 cans and jars of assorted foods amounting to 924 lbs weight, were examined and found unfit. Another 64 lbs of bulk material and 40 pints of evaporated milk were rejected and also disposed of by the Council at the refuse tip.

The East Suffolk County Council Weights and Measures Inspector comments on his Authority's work in connection with securing a fair deal for the food consumer and, more important, ensuring food free from harmful chemical contaminants and not nutritionally deficient:-

"The following is a list of samples taken within the Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1962 (not including milk samples taken by the Public Health Department).

	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Sausages and other meat products	7	
Tinned fruit	2	1
Fish products	3	
Beverages	1	
Tinned vegetables		1
Confectionery	3	
Bread	1	
Cake mixes etc.	2	
Soft drinks	2	
Spirits	6	1

The labelling of Food Order 1963 imposes certain requirements as to the marking of prepacked articles of food and two of the samples listed as unsatisfactory infringed this Order.

Both the tinned fruit and vegetables should have been labelled either with the name and address of the packer or labeller or with a trade mark accompanied by the words "Registered Trade Mark". This requirement had not been complied with, and, in addition, one of the ingredients in the tinned vegetables was not declared. (It is another requirement of the Order that, in the case of food made of two or more ingredients, the container must be marked with a list of ingredients in descending order by weight).

One sample of rum was found to be slightly under proof, but subsequent samples taken at the same premises proved to be satisfactory.

Generally speaking, I feel that the sampling and other examination of foodstuffs during the year has indicated a satisfactory state of affairs.

Sanitation

The Surveyor found it necessary to focus attention on the difficulties being experienced with sludge disposal at the Sewage Works. To effect some relief, extra lagoons were installed but a better method of sludge treatment is required and sludge pressing plant was under active consideration.

Messrs. Munton and Fison of the Cedars Factory, Needham Road, who currently discharge their factory liquid effluents into the River Gipping, applied for acceptance of their trade waste into the Councils' sewers. The complexity of their effluent and its treatment in the sewage works was under active investigation at the year's end.

Public conveniences at the Queen's Head are ripe for refurbishment and the Council's proposals for new ones at this site were well advanced. The design includes washing facilities with hot and cold water which the majority of intelligent society regard as essential amenities in conveniences nowadays, and it is to be hoped that the less-enlightened will leave the new facilities unharmed.

Five complaints concerning choked or otherwise defective private drainage were successfully dealt with in the year.

Watercourses.

Complaints concerning the state of the watercourse in Combs Ford Terrace and the old course of the main River Gipping were received. These courses, which are the responsibility of the River Gipping Internal Drainage Board, are overgrown with weeds and, in the case of the Gipping 'course', rubbish sewage and inadequate flow present very unsatisfactory conditions. Representations were made to the Board but no improvements were effected.

Refuse.

The Council affords the community a weekly refuse collection service. Until the retirement of my predecessor, this service and the waste paper recovery work was under the direction of Mr. Fisher but was transferred at the appropriate time to the Surveyor to secure the advantages of one direct labour force.

Two small side-loading vehicles are employed using the skip system and the refuse is disposed of at the Council's controlled tip off Bury Road. The tip is open during specified hours to enable ratepayers to dump refuse and the Council is not unduly restrictive in the nature of the rubbish it will accept from householders. Apart from trade collections, no charges are made and this is found cheaper and better than periodic removal of rubbish from hedgerows and ditches.

Householders are able to supply their own refuse bins of approved pattern and generally they are very good in this respect, maintaining proper bins in decent order which put to shame the dolly tubs, oil drums and boxes to be seen in use in so many other areas. Bin supply is supplemented by a Council scheme whereby standard 2 cu. ft. BSS bins are supplied and maintained for a standard charge of 5/-d. per year. 419 bins were thus in service during the year, not counting those issued to Council houses.

There is a dearth of litter receptacles in the populated area and their absence is not conducive to a tidy environment. The young are noticeably careless in this respect, but the absence of litter facilities is hardly encouraging to their improving their habits. The Council is not unmindful of the deficiencies in this sphere and has plans for securing that litter receptacles are made available throughout the Urban District in 1963.

Noise.

Only once during the year was the Council asked to act in accordance with its powers under the Noise Abatement Act, 1960. In this case, however, the Council was able to negotiate the suppression of amplifiers at a local Saleyard which had been disturbing the neighbourhood every Thursday without resort to formal action. Numerous ice cream vendors make frequent tours of the residential estates and at weekends the chiming melodies used by these vehicles to attract custom sometimes border on a nuisance. The vendors however appear to respect the limitations provided by the Act, and no noise is created after the specified 7 p.m.

Local industry is relatively quiet and gave rise to no complaints.

Pest Control.

The Council employs a part-time Rodent Operator, Mr. C. Coppen, shared on an equal basis with Gipping Rural District Council, each Authority employing his services on alternate days and sharing his wages. A small workshop for storing and preparing materials etc. is in use by the Operator at the Union Street Depot. Among other deficiencies, no suitable washing facilities exist at the Workshop, and this important omission is to be rectified by the Council during the financial year 1963/64 when it should be possible to entertain the introduction of more up-to-date and toxic rodenticides for local use. The Council employs its Operator to constantly survey its District to eliminate any rodent infestations before they become established and offers a free service to householders and a very cheap service to business undertakings at an inclusive charge of 6s. 0d. per hour.

The Rodent Operator's work during the year included:-

No. of premises affected by rat infestations	233
No. of premises affected by mouse infestations	9
Total number of treatments carried-out by operator	142
Block control schemes	7
Sewer maintenance treatment	1

No flea or bug infestations arose during the year. Two wasps nests were dealt with by the Operator.

Factories.

Inspection of factory premises under the Act of 1961 revealed few discrepancies. The data in connection with this work is as follows:-

Powered factories	58
Unpowered factories	2
Other premises (building sites etc.)	11
Number of inspections	17
Sanitary defects found	4
Sanitary defects remedied	3

Two premises are registered in accordance with the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951:-

- (i) Messrs. Cole and Sons (Furnishers) Ltd., 57, Ipswich Street.
- (ii) Messrs. J. Collins and Son Ltd., Jaycol Works, Finborough Road.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

Two licences were approved in respect of pet shops at:-

- (i) Messrs. Cramphorn Ltd., 4, Ipswich Street.
- (ii) "Marina", 39, Ipswich Street.

In both cases conditions are observed to be maintained at a satisfactory level.

Agricultural (Safety Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

Number of agricultural holdings	11
Number inspected	1

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

A circular letter drawing parents attention to the principal common-sense precautions that the Acts require of them to prevent spread of infectious disease, would probably prove as useful as your Officer's personal visit and it is intended that this will be introduced in 1963. No cases of food poisoning arose for investigation for the second year in succession. 43 children contracted measles during the year; official policy is not aimed at discouraging its spread among any but the very young, and no preventive work was undertaken. Investigation of the four tuberculosis cases was undertaken by the Chest Physician and his associates.

Complaints Register.

268 complaints, requests for service or advice were received during the year.

General.

Cigarette-smoking continues to figure more attractively in commercial advertising than anti-smoking does in official propoganda and, whilst the Council agreed to help promote the Ministry of Health's policy to dissuade young people from adopting this sometimes publicly offensive and sometimes personally harmful habit, there remains a pitifully inadequate and inappropriate supply of publicity material. Official publicity in many aspects of health education, particularly in the matter of poster propoganda, is poor and ignores the basic rules of advertising and little use is made of it in the District.

Councillor Ince, the Chairman of the Council's Public Health Committee, and Mr. J.S. Fisher, my predecessor, were delegated by the Council to attend the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors at Southport in September. A varied, stimulating and informative programme was provided for delegates as follows:-

Developments in refuse disposal	- Houses in multiple occupation.
Environmental Health in the U.K.	- A Statistical Review.
Quick Frozen Foods	- Recent Developments in the Ice Cream Industry.
Public Health Building Control	- Public Health Problem of Raw Pet Meat.
Noise assessment as a nuisance.	

The Public Health Committee, details of which appear on Page 1, continued to meet on the second Wednesday of each month, to deal with public health policy and to attend to matters requiring the Council's formal consideration. In addition to the general public health work the Committee continued its supervision over building works which makes such a contribution to our general environment and overall well-being and considered in detail 152 plans of building or similar proposals.

The Public Health Laboratory Service continues to be freely available to the Council at its Heath Road premises in Ipswich under the direction of Dr. J. Dixon. The Service affords the Council bacteriological examination of milk, meat, ice cream, water and swimming pool samples and readily helps in the laboratory examination of meat specimens where macroscopic diagnosis is difficult.

For some time the need has been felt for clerical assistance in the Department for recording the day to day work, the reports and correspondence, the numerous registers and filing, which all tend to absorb an increasing amount of time. I feel that I should fill this position for a twelve-month before recommending anything in this matter in order that I may have a chance of properly assessing the requirements.

The establishment of the Department was reduced when the Additional Public Health Inspector terminated his appointment at the end of March. After the closure of Messrs. Clarke's slaughterhouse, he had been able to undertake a deal of routine inspection work in connection with shops, factories, and the like which in a one-man Department often have to be shelved in the face of day-to-day commitments.

Reference to Mr. Fisher's retirement has been previously made by the Council and by your Medical Officer of Health. In the short time during which our appointments overlapped I developed a very great respect for Mr. Fisher's attitude to public health work and, more important, to its common-sense application to the best advantage of the Stowmarket Community. For sixteen years he contributed to the health and comfort of the local populace in a firm but unobtrusive manner and there must be many who unconsciously owe him their present health and living standards. I shall endeavour to fill his position as effectively and as honourably. The short period of my tenure so far indicates that the community and the Council and my colleagues will not be to blame if I do not do so as happily.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Yours respectfully,

L.W. BROWN,
Public Health Inspector.

